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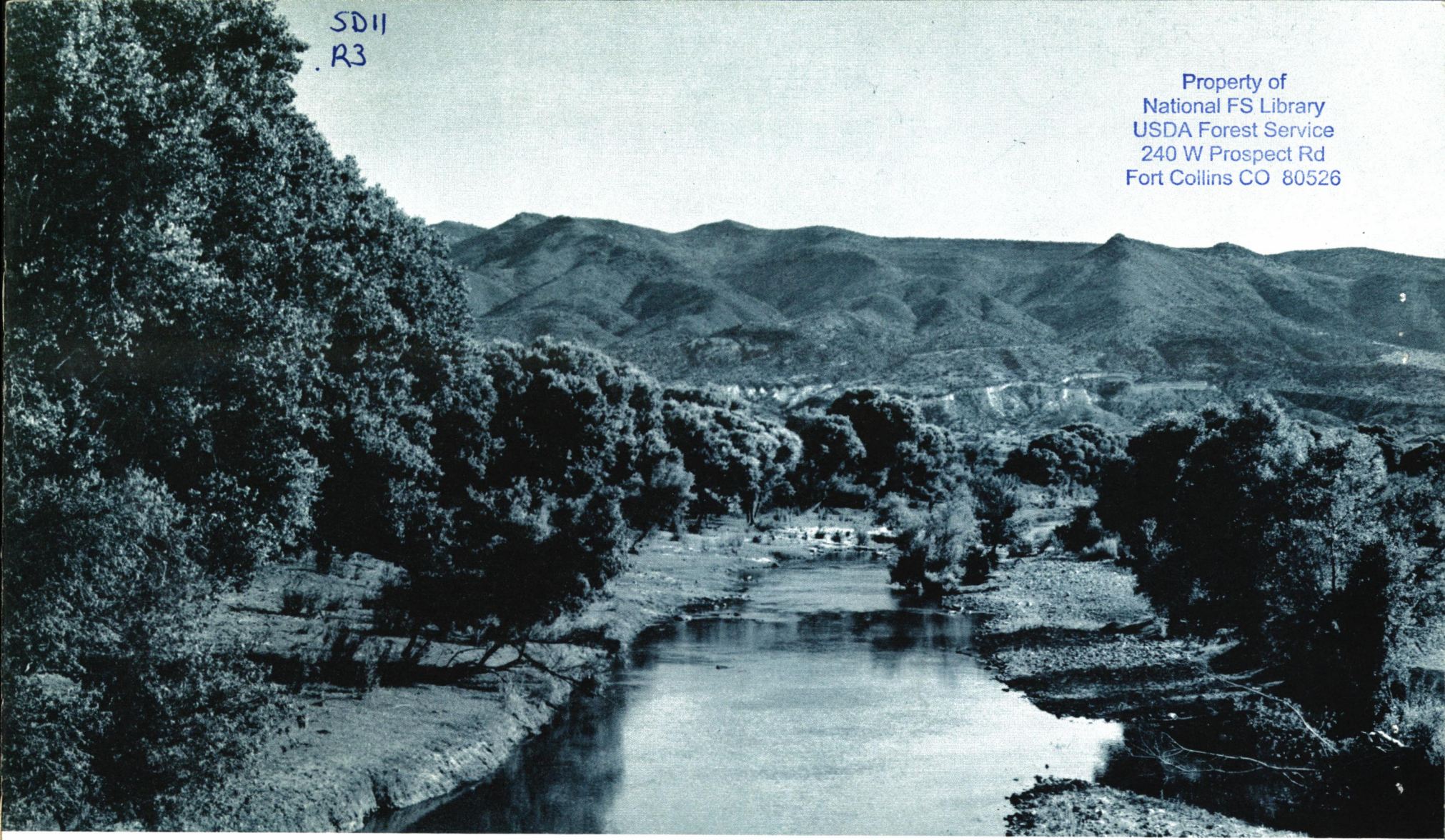
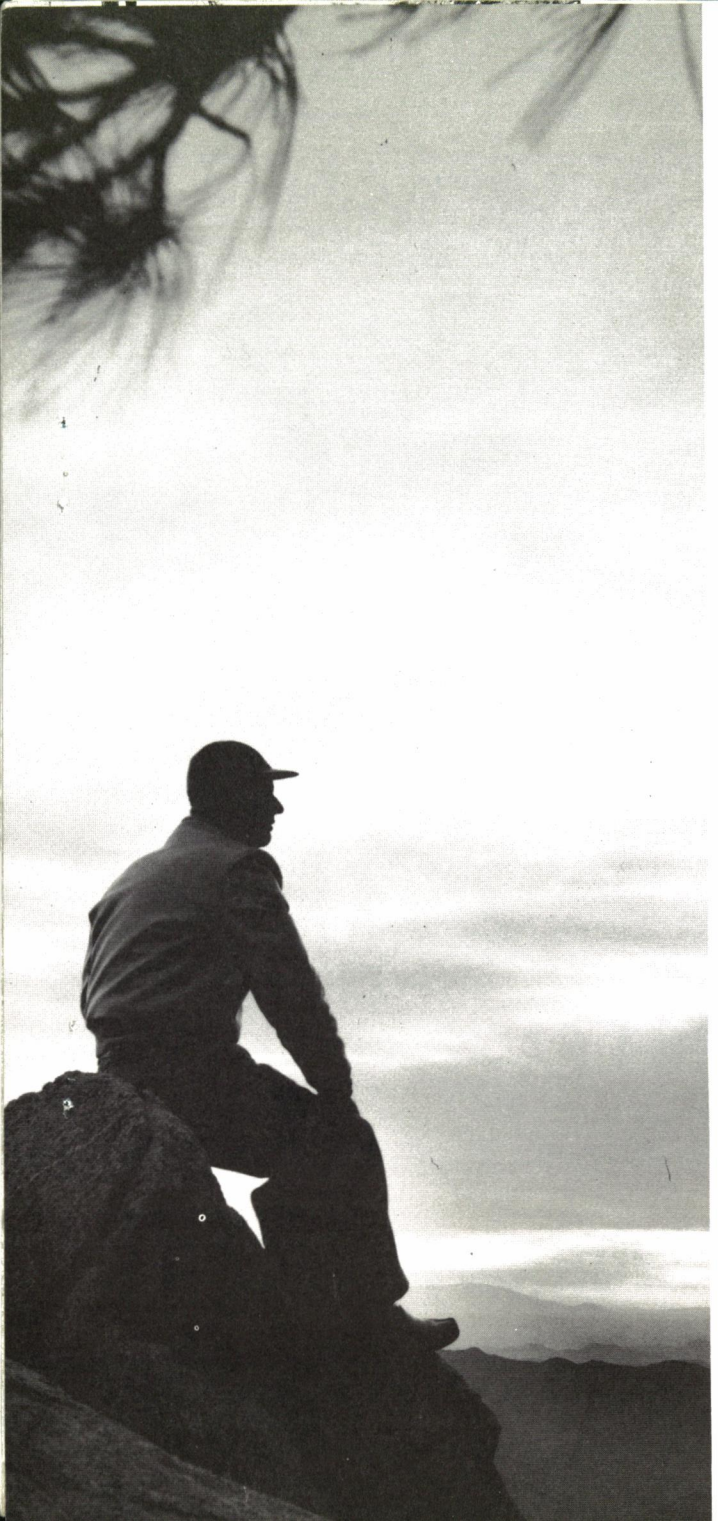


THE PRESCOTT National Forest WORKS FOR YOU!

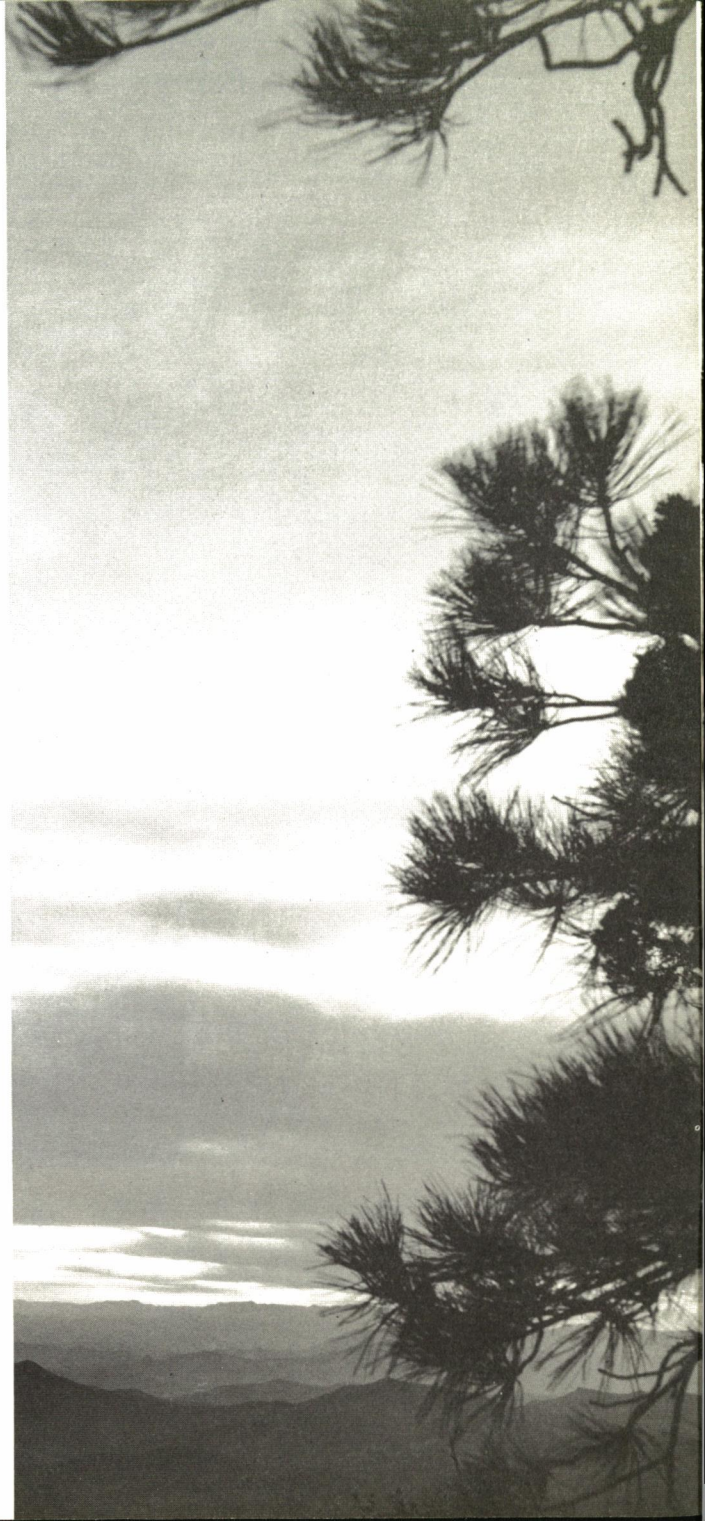
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ● FOREST SERVICE ● SOUTHWESTERN REGION



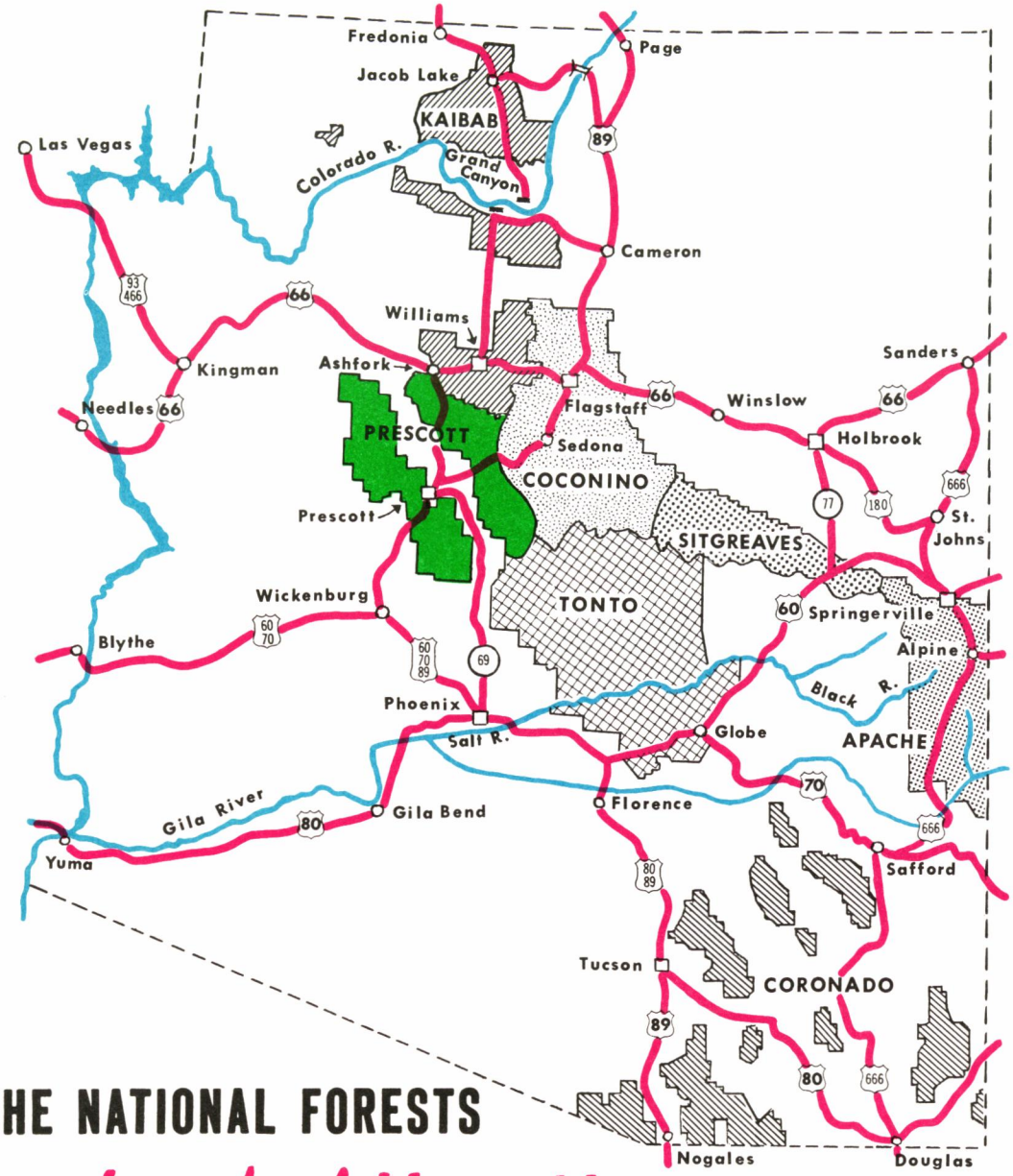
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT of your PRESCOTT National Forest provides

- RECREATION
- WATER
- WOOD
- FORAGE
- WILDLIFE

for maximum overall public benefit!



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ARIZONA



THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Lands of Many Uses

The Prescott National Forest, rich in history, made a major contribution in the early days to the development of the Arizona Territory. Today, under Forest Service Multiple Use Management, its outdoor recreation, wildlife, forage, water, and timber resources are making even greater contributions to the economy and public welfare of our State. The purpose of this brochure is to explain just how the Prescott National Forest is working for *you!*

Outdoor recreation continues to be our fastest growing business as more and more Arizonians learn about the Forest's varied recreation opportunities. This influx of visitors is bringing with it problems of vandalism and litterbugging. Fortunately, only a small number of people are responsible for these conditions and we ask your cooperation in reporting any act of vandalism or litterbugging that comes to your attention.

You are one of the owners of the Prescott and I hope you will visit your National Forest whenever possible. Please let me know if you should have any questions about our policies or programs.

Ralph W Crawford

Forest Supervisor

HISTORICAL

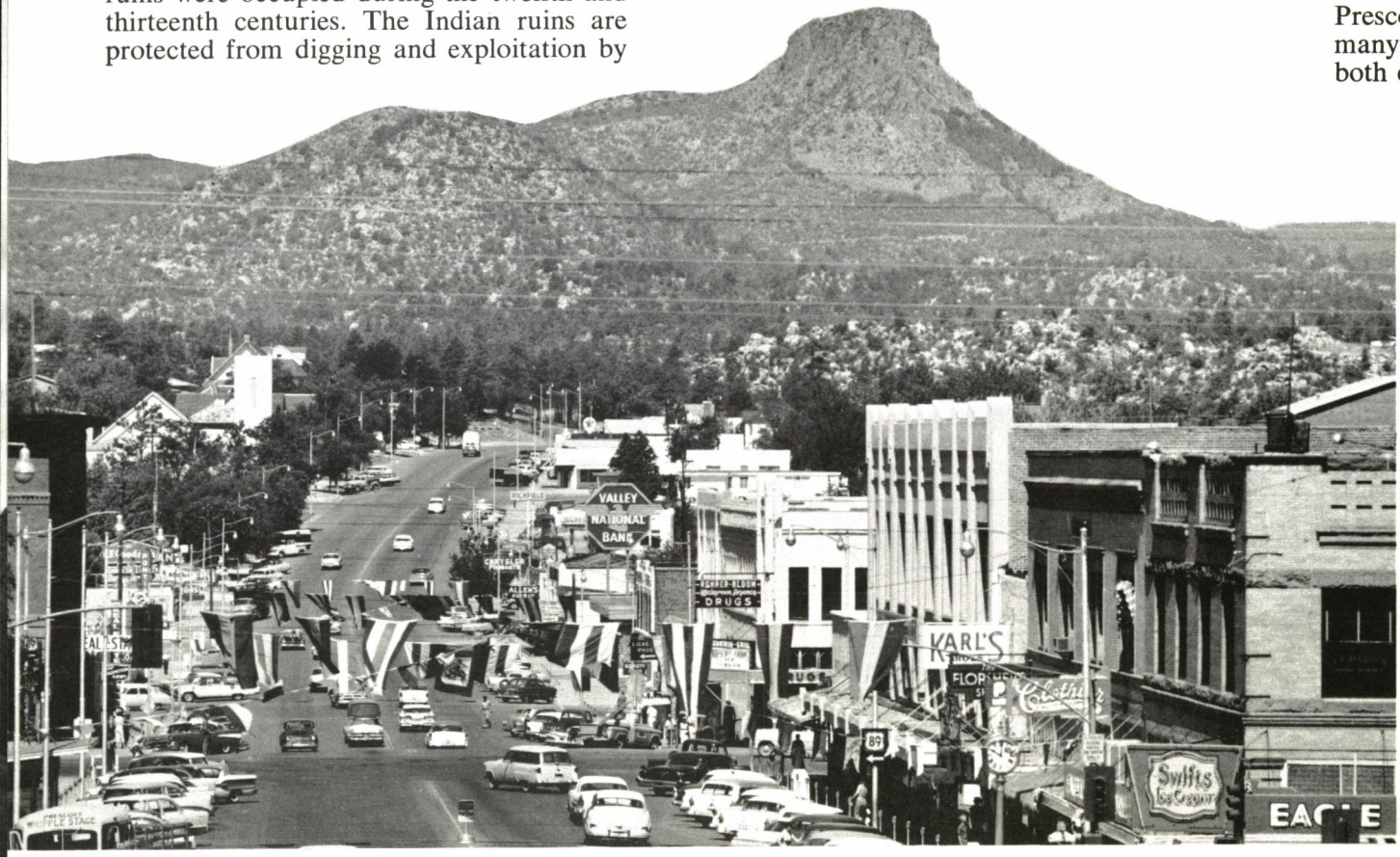
President William McKinley signed the proclamation establishing what is now the Prescott National Forest on May 10, 1898. This National Forest takes its name from the town of Prescott, which was the first Territorial Capital of the Arizona Territory. The town of Prescott is named for William H. Prescott, noted historian, who was best known as the author of "History of the Conquest of Mexico."

There are numerous Indian ruins in the Prescott National Forest — cliff dwellings, fortifications, and villages of pit houses. Archeologists are of the opinion that these ruins were occupied during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Indian ruins are protected from digging and exploitation by the American Antiquities Act of 1906.

Within, and adjacent to the Prescott National Forest are the locations of old army outposts, some of which were occupied to protect settlers and miners from the Indians. Among these were Fort Whipple, Fort Hualapai, Fort Verde, Fort Woolsey, and Camp Wood which was occupied by an army scouting expedition.

Settlement and development of the Prescott National Forest area followed the discovery of gold on Lynx Creek in 1863. Prospectors sank shafts and dug tunnels over much of the present Forest area. Large mining communities temporarily flourished in places where today lives only an occasional prospector. Harvesting the renewable resources of what is now the Prescott National Forest started when miners whipsawed logs into lumber for sluice boxes. The first sawmill was a portable unit set up in 1865 south of the present City of Prescott. Harvesting of the range resource, by other than wild game, started in 1870 when cattle were grazed in the vicinity of Del Rio Springs.

During the 1930's, J. R. Williams, the nationally-known cartoonist and creator of "Out Our Way" syndicated cartoons, operated the K4 Ranch on Walnut Creek. The Prescott National Forest is the locale of many "Out Our Way" cartoons featuring both cowboys and forest rangers.



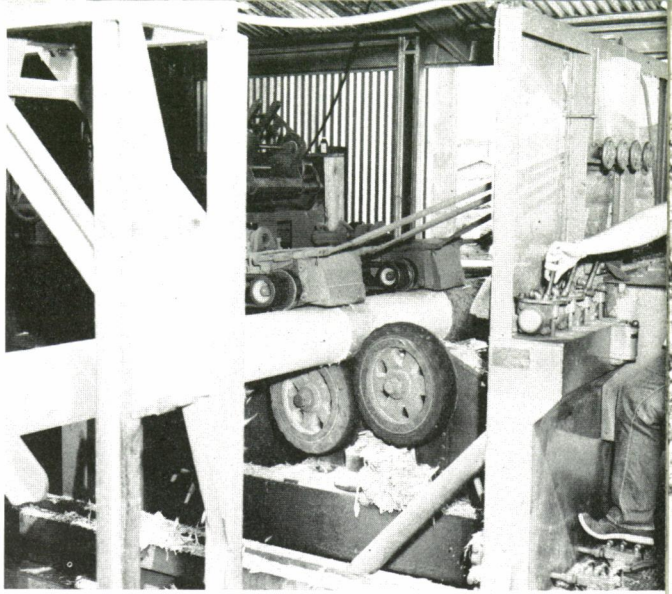
- **Downtown Prescott with Thumb Butte in background.**

Don't Say It, Old-timer!

- **This cartoon was drawn for the Forest Service in 1941 by the late J. R. Williams, cowboy-artist and creater of the popular "Out Our Way" syndicated feature.**

• **Decking logs on the Prescott National Forest.**

• **Southwest Forest Industries' pole and railroad tie treating plant at Prescott.**



• **Bark being peeled from utility pole.**

TIMBER

The forest around Prescott supplied wood in many forms for the mining industry during the territorial days of Arizona. Most of the large virgin timber was cut to furnish mine timbers, housing, and fuelwood. Today the new, younger forests that grew up after the old timber was cut still supply wood for the mining industry. In addition, important new wood products industries have developed that depend on this young forest for their raw material supply. One of these is a utility pole and railroad tie treating plant built in Prescott by Southwest Forest Industries. Another is the Airlock Log Company's house-log plant. Two sawmills also run yearlong in the area, with occasional sawing done by smaller mills. These industries are of real importance to the economy of Prescott and the surrounding areas.

In 1963, about 144,000 linear feet of pole material was cut from the Prescott National Forest and sawlog material harvested amounted to 3,300,000 board feet.

During 1963 a new look was taken at the timber management plan for the Forest. This is a routine review made every 10 years to assure that the rate of cutting is still in line with the amount being grown. A perpetual sustained annual yield of timber is the objective of management.

Because of the importance of recreation use on the timbered lands of the Prescott National Forest, areas to be cut and even individual trees marked for cutting are carefully considered so as to preserve scenic values and protect recreation sites. Loggers are required to clean up limbs and small debris following cutting to reduce the fire hazard and grass is seeded to hold the soil on disturbed areas. When carefully planned and executed, a timber harvest leaves not only a healthier and more productive stand of timber, but also one that is often greatly improved from the esthetic standpoint.

• **Timber sale area on Groom Creek — 4 years after cutting.**

WATER

The Prescott National Forest has few "live" or yearlong streams, but intense summer storms and melting snow in the spring send water off the steep slopes of the Prescott National Forest to the valleys below. Healthy watersheds give longer sustained flows of good clean water. Almost all management programs and uses of this National Forest affect the health of the watersheds and quality of the water produced. Thus, careful consideration is given in managing livestock grazing, planning timber sales, constructing roads, and in many other activities to assure that watersheds are not damaged or deteriorated.

Sometimes sore spots develop in spite of our efforts and direct action is then taken to repair damage or at least to keep it under control. Two small watersheds, Lucky Canyon and Hayfield Draw on the Verde Ranger District, are examples of eroded areas being rehabilitated by contour furrows, small dams, diversions, and grass seeding to establish a healing cover to keep the soil on the mountain slopes. Fencing keeps cattle off these project areas to permit the fastest possible recovery. Special attention is given by the Forest Service to protecting and managing the City of Prescott's watershed in the Groom Creek area which encompasses both Hassayampa Lake and the Goldwater Lakes.

In a search for better ways to manage watersheds, the research branch of the Forest Service has set up two small areas on the Prescott National Forest on which various methods of vegetation manipulation are being studied. These are the Mingus and Whitespar Watersheds. Results of such studies will enable management to adopt those practices that will assure healthy and productive watersheds for a continuous supply of water from your National Forest.

Granite Basin Lake

WILDLIFE

The brush-covered slopes of the Prescott National Forest provide good hunting for those hardy sportsmen who hunt here each year. In 1963, over 49,300 hunter visits were made to the Forest in search of deer, antelope, bear, turkey, and javelina, as well as a variety of small game and upland birds. Warm water fishing, available along 35 miles of the Verde River, was enjoyed by many during 1963. Lynx Lake, constructed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, near Prescott, is providing limited trout fishing at present and is expected to improve as the lake continues to fill to its ultimate size of 55 surface acres.

Because the Forest Service is charged with wildlife habitat management and management of the animals themselves is the responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, game and fish management is necessarily a cooperative activity between the two agencies. Habitat studies are conducted as a joint effort, and Forest Officers assist with game surveys, counts, and hunt supervision. Additional game studies are being carried on by Forest Service technicians as a part of range analysis work. Intensive management plans, such as the one for the Santa Maria and Mingus herds, are developed by both agencies.

Hunt recommendations are made by competent Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists after securing and evaluating all of the evidence, including that presented by the Forest Service. During recent years, one of the facts that had to be faced up to was poor range conditions resulting from drought and over-use of browse plants. To prevent continuing deterioration of the range and a large die-off of deer, reductions in deer numbers were necessary and were accomplished through "any deer" harvests. This program coupled with better moisture conditions has resulted in an improvement of browse conditions in many places, but some critical areas still remain. It is the common goal of both agencies to provide a sustained yield of game and fish, but this can only be achieved so long as game numbers are kept in balance with available food supplies.

Accomplishments for 1962 and 1963 in the field of game and fish management include the following:

Game range studies installed on 5 allotments.
170 acres of browse improvement.
8 game waters developed.
22 livestock waters with big and small game watering facilities developed.

In addition to the above, areas disturbed through logging or construction were seeded with species suitable for deer forage.

The following are minimum needs for wildlife habitat development over the next decade:

13,000 acres of food and cover planting.
1,800 acres of wildlife openings.
12 miles of stream improvement.
60 acres of lake improvement.
35 small water developments.

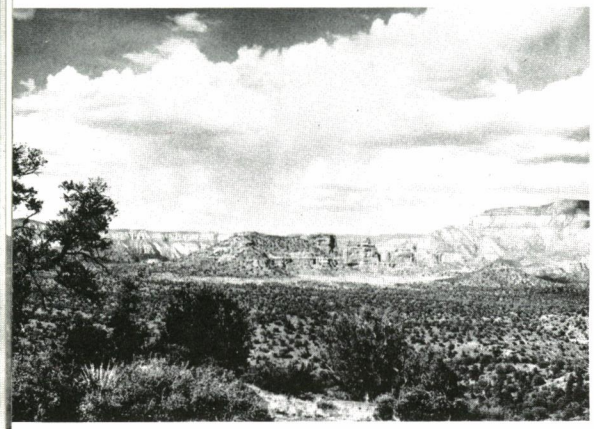
• **Partially full Lynx Lake built by Arizona Game and Fish Department.**

• **Pronghorn antelope provide good hunting.**

• **Mountain lions like the Prescott too.**

• **Rocky Mountain mule deer.**

• **Everyone enjoys a picnic in the outdoors.**



• **Sycamore Canyon Primitive Area.**

• **Forest Ranger tells visitors about the National Forest.**

OUTDOOR RECREATION

For over half a century the Prescott National Forest has been a favorite recreation spot with people from all walks of life. In the early days its appeal was mainly to the residents of the Salt River Valley seeking climatic relief during the hot summer months. With the advent of more dependable automobiles, better highways, and great increases in population all over the Southwest, the appeal of this area has broadened. People, whether vacationing families from other states or local folk out for a picnic, find recreation opportunities on this National Forest wholesome, inexpensive, and satisfying.

Numerous formal facilities such as motels, resorts, and equipped trailer camps to serve the public are to be found on private land within and adjacent to the National Forest. The Forest Service's responsibility in outdoor recreation is to provide less formal recreation opportunities and to develop suitable areas for maximum public enjoyment with as little disturbance to the natural setting as possible.

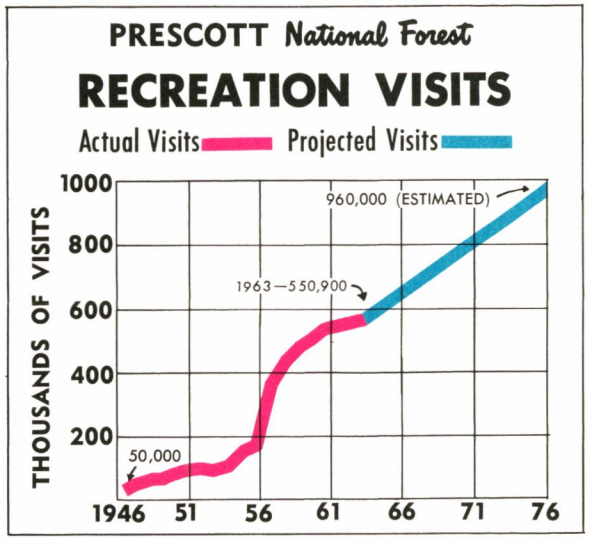
The Prescott National Forest now has 17 improved sites which provide camping or picnicking facilities for 293 parties or families. Approximately 185,000 visits were made to these sites alone during 1963, and over one-half million recreation visits of all kinds were tallied on the Prescott National Forest.

With more recreationists coming to the Prescott each year, there is a pressing need for additional facilities. Scheduled for completion in the near future is a 36-unit campground at the newly created Lynx Lake. This 55-acre, man-made lake lies only 6 miles from the City of Prescott. Man-made lakes at Granite Basin and Horsethief Basin are also enjoyed by Forest visitors.

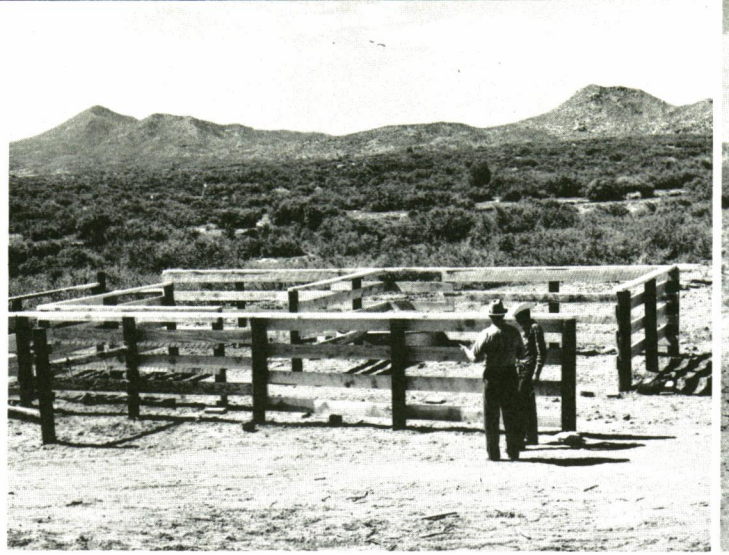
Construction of new facilities to meet the demand receives high priority, as does the clean-up and maintenance of existing facilities. In 1963 approximately $15,000 were expended to clean up recreation sites, haul garbage and refuse, provide sanitary facilities, and insure that water, where available, was safe to drink.

The Prescott National Forest contains portions of both the Sycamore Canyon and Pine Mountain Primitive Areas. These areas are particularly attractive to those who enjoy the more rugged forms of hiking, riding, and camping. Motorized travel of any kind is not permitted and developed recreation facilities are not provided. Here, for present and future generations, is preserved a small area of the National Forest much as the first white men saw it. Travel into these areas is difficult, but rewarding. Lack of water in the Sycamore Primitive Area makes travel in this area inadvisable during periods other than the rainy season.

A four-color recreation folder map of the Prescott National Forest may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor in Prescott or from the Forest Rangers' offices located at Chino Valley, Camp Verde, and Crown King.



• **Cattle grazing is a valuable National Forest use.**



• **Pens for weighing cattle as part of experiment.**

• **Building range fence on the Prescott.**

RANGE

Grazing of domestic livestock continues to be one of the valuable Multiple Uses of the Prescott National Forest but present day range management methods are a far cry from the old days of the open range. The Prescott Forest is divided into 76 individual grazing allotments upon which 75 stockmen grazed 14,400 cattle in 1963 under paid permit. The income from these cattle made a substantial contribution to the local and State economy.

In addition to grazing use by cattle, 28,000 sheep traveled from the desert winter ranges along sheep driveways, which cross the Prescott National Forest, to the high summer ranges in northern Arizona.

The primary objective in range management is to produce a sustained yield of forage and to utilize it to the fullest extent possible consistent with other uses of the National Forest. As part of the program to develop and manage the Prescott National Forest's grazing lands, range technicians are carefully analyzing grazing allotments. This job provides basic information for evaluation of range condition and forage production potential. More important, it is the basis for range management planning. Forest Officers and stockmen working together have completed and initiated intensive management and development plans on 20 grazing allotments to date. An additional 40 allotments are being administered under less intensive plans.

In support of these management and development plans, 95,000 acres of noxious plant control and revegetation have been completed, 164 miles of fence have been constructed, and 163 new water developments, which benefit both livestock and wildlife, have been put into service in the last 10 years.

Minimum needs for range improvement work over the next ten years include:

Miles of fence — 397
Water developments — 193
Acres of revegetation and noxious plant control — 103,000

• **This water development was built cooperatively by the Forest Service and grazing permittee.**

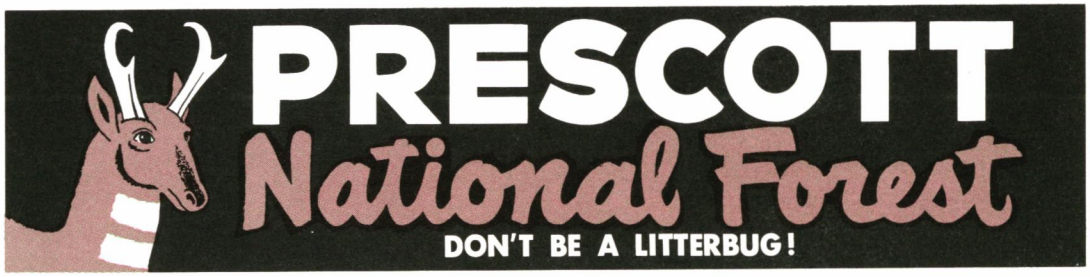
MINERALS

For a hundred years the area now comprising the Prescott National Forest has been one of varying mining activity. National Forest mineral examiners have recently completed an inventory to determine the present extent of this activity and its impact on other resources within the Prescott boundaries. The survey also assists in determining the right of the Forest Service to manage the surface resources on presently unpatented mining claims under the Multiple Use Mining Law of 1955. This permits the Prescott National Forest to harvest the timber and forage growing on these claims, manage the wildlife habitat and watershed, and provide public recreation insofar as these uses do not interfere with legitimate mining operations.

Another recent project was an inventory of the many flagstone quarries near Drake, Arizona. This inventory will result in quarry operators purchasing material under National Forest special-use permit as it is not locatable under the 1955 Mining Law. In this way, quarrying operations will be conducted in a more orderly manner so as not to conflict with other uses, and a more stable industry should result. Common varieties of sand and gravel are provided free of charge to tax supported agencies engaged in public road construction. Hundreds of cubic yards of road building materials are given annually to the State, counties, and municipalities, depending on the extent of their road construction and maintenance programs.

Legitimate mining and quarrying operations are welcome on the Prescott National Forest as they produce a marketable product and are income producing uses of the public land for the operators. With the exception of special purpose areas, such as recreation areas, administrative sites, and municipal and experimental watersheds which have been withdrawn from mineral entry, legitimate mining is a recognized use in all National Forest areas. Regulation of mining activity by the Forest Service is to assure that mining is not carried on to the detriment of the other uses of the National Forest and contrary to the intent of the Mining Law. Illegal use of the Mining Law has been made by some who have located and occupied mining claims for other than legitimate mining purposes. The Forest Service, through examination and validity hearings, is engaged in a program to correct this abuse.

- The Prescott National Forest recreation folder map, which gives a brief resume of resource management activities on the Forest and shows the location of camp and picnic grounds, fishing lakes, major roads, and recreation trails is available at the Forest Supervisor's office in Prescott along with the bumper strip and auto sticker decal shown here. They may also be obtained at the Forest Ranger offices in Prescott, Camp Verde, Crown King, and Chino Valley.



• **Tanker planes lined up ready for action!**

• **Borate mixing tanks at Prescott Airport.**

FIRE

A brief look at recent history shows two striking examples of the destructiveness of forest fires. In 1955, the Johnson Fire burned 19,000 acres near Crown King and the next year (1956) Mingus Mountain burned, severely damaging 14,000 acres. Both fires were started by people — and could have been prevented!

Fortunately, all years are not this severe. In 1963 there were 63 fires on the Prescott National Forest, 50 lightning fires and 13 man-caused, that burned only 20 acres.

Air tankers, based at the Prescott Airport, are a valuable tool used in fighting fires. A mixture of bentonite (a clay material) and water is dropped on the fire to cool it down or in front of it to check its spread until men and equipment can reach the scene. These air tankers are frequently called to nearby National Forests when needed.

While less spectacular than airplanes, 6 lookout towers on strategic mountain peaks around the Forest and small crews of firefighters and individual prevention patrolmen are the backbone of the fire force. Supplementing Forest Service forces and of great value in fire control are the many cooperating agencies and individuals who report and help fight fires. Not to be overlooked are the newspapers, and radio and television stations that give such good coverage to news of "going" fires and fire prevention messages.

Continued cooperation by everyone is essential if the Prescott National Forest is to be kept beautiful and productive. As Smokey says, "Remember — only you can prevent forest fires!"

• **Mingus Mountain fire lookout near Jerome.**

• **Road up to Spruce Mountain fire lookout near Prescott.**

ROADS AND TRAILS

Most of the mileage on the Prescott National Forest road system is of low standard and difficult to travel with modern passenger cars. Many of these roads were constructed originally by miners and ranchers and inherited by the Forest Service. To bring this substandard road system up to Forest Service standards is a tremendous job facing the Prescott organization.

At present, there are 1,103 miles of road in the Prescott National Forest. In the next ten years, it is planned to construct 402 miles of new roads and reconstruct 294 miles of existing roads.

In 1962 and 1963, 3 miles of new timber access road, 1 mile of timber purchaser road, 3 miles of recreation road, and 5 miles of hunter access road were constructed. The 5-mile hunter access road was a cooperative project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Also, 10 miles of hunter access road were reconstructed to a higher standard.

There are 497 miles of existing trails on the Forest which are used for hiking, horseback riding, access for fire suppression, range management, and in the administration of other multiple use activities. During the next ten years, we plan to construct 18 miles of new trails and restore approximately 80 miles of old trails to an acceptable standard.

LANDOWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

Adjustments in land ownership are accomplished by the use of specific Acts of Congress which enables the Forest Service to exchange parcels of National Forest lands for private lands within the National Forest boundary that are of no less than equal value.

This procedure makes it possible for the Prescott National Forest to acquire isolated tracts of private land within the Forest which can be more logically managed under Forest Service Multiple Use Management. National Forest lands that are more suitable for development by private enterprise are exchanged for areas of wildland character. Such exchanges result in a better ownership pattern and insure that each parcel of land is put to its most productive use whether as a part of private enterprise or the National Forest. The communities of Prescott, Crown King, and Camp Verde are examples of areas where land exchanges may be necessary to provide "growing" room for the towns.

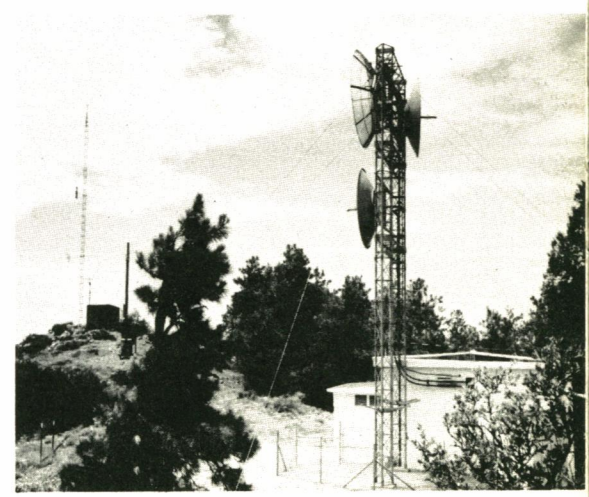
SPECIAL USES

Permits for the use of lands on the Prescott National Forest are issued and administered to provide sites for necessary services and facilities which cannot usually be provided for on private lands. These permits reflect the wide variety of demands that are being made for the use of your National Forest.

There are 417 special-use permits involving approximately 15,000 acres now in effect on the Prescott National Forest. They include such diverse facilities as organization camps, airports, highways, radio and TV antenna sites, rifle ranges, and schools. There are 226 miles of power transmission lines and 135 miles of telephone lines.

The Prescott area has long been favored by church and youth organizations, particularly from the Salt River Valley, as a place to hold summer camps and conferences. The Prescott National Forest has welcomed these groups and has provided land under permit to 13 different organizations whose camps are wholly or partially on the National Forest.

Special land uses are scrutinized carefully to be sure that their existence best serves the public need and that they will not conflict with other present or planned uses of the National Forest.



• **Electronic installations on Tower Mountain.**